

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4347

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, ITC

SUBJECT: TIN -- MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 17 1978

REF: (A) LONDON 3136; (B) LONDON 2710; (C) LONDON 20768
12/22/77

1. USING AGENDA SUPPLIED IN REFTEL (A), COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (COD) MET MARCH 17.

2. ITEM 5, THE STUDY ON CONSUMPTION REFTEL (B) TOUCHED
OFF A LONG DISCUSSION, LED BY FRANCE, ON THE COSTS OF
THE PROJECT AND THE AMOUNT OF WORK TO BE LEVIED ON THE
NEW TIN INDUSTRY OFFICER, WHO IS TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDY
ON CONSUMPTION. THE CONCLUSION WAS A DECISION TO PUT
OFF THE FINAL DECISION ON GOING AHEAD WITH THE STUDY AND
THE APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE STUDY UNTIL THE NEXT
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TIN COUNCIL SESSION. A LONG DEBATE DEVELOPED OVER
WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE SUBJECT OF RE-CYCLING IN THE CON-
SUMPTION STUDY. THE U.K., FRANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL
TIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE WERE AGAINST
INCLUSION, WHILE OTHER DELEGATES, INCLUDING THE U.S.,
TILTED TOWARDS INCLUSION. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AGIDI OF
NIGERIA SUMMED UP BY INSISTING THAT THE CLOSE LINKAGE

BETWEEN THE TWO SUBJECTS NECESSITATED THE JOINING OF THE TWO STUDIES.

3. THE DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 6 (PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT) AND ITS 5 SUB ITEMS WAS DISJOINTED AND SOMEWHAT INCONCLUSIVE. MALAYSIA OPPOSED THE CONCEPT OF SYMPOSIA OR A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO ENCOURAGE PROSPECTING AND INVESTMENT. ONLY THE U.S. SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING FURTHER THINKING ON THE CONCEPT. NO CONCLUSION WAS REACHED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS THE ITC SECRETARIAT WOULD PREFER TO DO MORE WORK TOWARDS A SYMPOSIA. THE SUBJECT IS LIKELY TO COME UP AGAIN AT THE NEXT ITC COUNCIL. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AUSTRALIA, THE MEETING FELT A NEED FOR MORE INTENSE CONSIDERATION OF THE MODEL STUDIES PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 1977 ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL REFTEL C. TUESDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 11, THE DAY PRECEDING THE NINTH ITC SESSION, WAS SET ASIDE FOR AN INTENSE REVIEW OF THE MODEL STUDIES.

4. ITEM 8, ON GSA DISPOSALS BROUGHT INTERESTED QUESTIONING BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS OF THE U.S. PLANS FOR TIN DISPOSALS. US DEL BRIEFED THE MEETING ON THE UDALL-DECONCINI BILL, AND EXPLAINED THE U.S. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. LED BY INDONESIA (SIAHAAN), DELEGATES SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED ON THE TIMING OF DISPOSALS. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. DEL NOTED THERE IS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY ON TIMING, BUT REAFFIRMED THE INTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERTAKE AN ORDERLY DISPOSAL PROGRAM WHICH WAS NOT DISRUPTIVE TO THE TIN MARKET.

5. COMMENT: THE LEVEL OF CONCERN AMONG THE DELEGATES TO ITC MEETINGS OVER GSA DISPOSALS IS MUCH Milder THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THE DISPOSAL PROGRAM. MOST DELEGATES APPEAR UNCONVINCED THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS COULD ACT RAPIDLY ON THE UDALL-DECONCINI BILL, ALTHOUGH SOME ARE BECOMING WORRIED AS TIME PROGRESSES. PRODUCERS ARE TO HOLD A COORDINATION MEETING IN JAKARTA TVBETWEEN APRIL 5-6 AT THE SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING ITC MEETING, PRINCIPALLY TO DISCUSS GSA DISPOSALS.

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